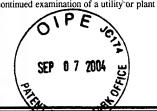
| | RI | EQUES | T FO | R | |
|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| CONTI | NUEI | EXA | MINA | TION | (RCE) |
| • | ŤF | RANSN | AITTA | L | |

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.



| Application Number | 09/924,476 | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| Filing Date | August 9, 2001 | | |
| First Named Inventor | KIKUGAWA, Atsushi et al. | | |
| Group Art Unit | 1742 | | |
| Name of Examiner | John P. Sheehan | | |
| Attorney Docket No. | 010983 | | |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53 (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar 20, 2000) 1233 Off. Gazette Pat Office (April 11, 2000) which established RCE practice.

| 1. | Sub | miss | sion Required Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 | | | | |
|----|--|-------------|---|---------------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| a. | \boxtimes | Prev | Previously submitted | | | | |
| | i. | × | Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on August 9, 2004 (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered) | | | | |
| | ii. | | Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Re | ply Brief previously filed on _ | | | |
| | iii. | | Other | | | | |
| | | | | 09/08/2004 SDENBOB1 0000007 | 09924476 | | |
| b. | \boxtimes | Eı | nclosed | 01 FC:1801 | 770.00 OP | | |
| | i. | | Amendment/Reply | | | | |
| | ii. | | Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) | | | | |
| | iii. | | Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) | | | | |
| | iv. | \boxtimes | Other Petition for Extension of Time | | | | |
| 2. | 2. Miscellaneous | | | | | | |
| a. | Suspension of Action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of months (period shall not exceed three months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required) | | | | | | |
| b. | □ Oti | Other | | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | | | |
| a. | a. ☑ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340. | | | | | | |
| | i. | | | | | | |
| | ii. □ Extension of Time Fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) | | | | | | |
| | iii. Dother | | | | | | |
| b. | ⊠ (| Check | in the amount of \$880.00 is enclosed. | | | | |

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995

PAGE 2



Atty Docket No.

010983

SIGNATURE BY APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name

William L. Brooks

Registration No.

34,129 (atty/agent)

Signature

Wills Bute

Date

September 7, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, MAIL STOP RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name

Signature